

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, GR, NATO
SUBJECT: AVEROFF-PAPANDREOU EXCHANGE ON ALLEGED NATO DEFENSE
PLAN FOR GREECE

1. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 4, PASOK LEADER
ANDREAS PAPANDREOU ALLEGED (AS HE HAS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS)
THAT NATO'S DEFENSE PLAN FOR GREECE IS BASED ON HOLDING AN
EAST-WEST LINE DRAWN AT MOUNT OLYMPUS, THUS CONCEDED NORTHERN
GREECE TO THE ENEMY WITHOUT A STRUGGLE. ON JANUARY 6,
DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF REPLIED THAT "MR. PAPANDREOU'S
STATEMENT LACKS WEIGHT IN ALL RESPECTS" AND REASSURED THE
PUBLIC THAT GREECE'S ARMED FORCES HAVE NEVER BEEN AT SUCH A
HIGH LEVEL OF READINESS.

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2. AVEROFF SAID THAT IT WAS NOT UP TO HIM TO DEAL WITH
ALL THE "FIREWORKS" OF PAPANDREOU'S LATEST PRESS
CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE HAD TO REPLY TO THOSE REMARKS
AFFECTING HIS AREA OF COMPETENCE. HE THEN STATED:
"I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT OUR DEFENSE PLANS, BOTH WITH
RESPECT TO THE MAINLAND AS WELL AS THE ISLAND AREA, PROVIDE FOR

STRONG AND DETERMINED DEFENSE AT THE EXTREME POINTS OF
THE NATIONAL TERRITORY. THE TENET REFLECTING THE STRATEGY
OF THE ARMED FORCES IS: 'DEFENSIVE DOCTRINE ALONG THE
BORDERS, COUPLED WITH AN AGGRESSIVE SPIRIT.' IF THIS WERE
NOT SO, IT WOULD BE BOTH INCONCEIVABLE AND STRATEGICALLY MOST
DANGEROUS TO DEPLOY OUR MAJOR UNITS AND THEIR PRECIOUS
EQUIPMENT, AND MAJOR DEFENSE WORKS THAT ARE FULLY MANNED
AND IN A STATE OF TOTAL READINESS, IN ADVANCED POSITIONS
THAT LIE WELL TO THE NORTH OF OLYMPUS. FORTUNATELY, THIS
ALONE SHOWS EVERY FOREIGNER CLEARLY THAT MR. PAPANDREOU'S
STATEMENT LACKS WEIGHT IN ALL RESPECTED.

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Message Attributes

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